work relating to court cases is also undertaken, in collaboration with legal agencies, handling court cases on behalf of the Government.

Vacant posts of judges

2748. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacant posts of judges in the country and the period since when these have remained unfilled, State-wise;

(b) the steps being taken to fill them up; and

(c) whether Government would ask the judges to work overtime to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) As per available information, there are 2216 vacant posts of judges and magistrates in the District and Subordinate Courts in the country. A Statement showing the State-wise figures is enclosed (*See* below). The creation and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process.

(b) Filling up of the vacant posts of judges/magistrates at the District and Subordinate Judiciary is the responsibility of the respective High Courts and the State Governments. Appointment of District Judges and other judges of the Subordinate Courts is made by the Governor of the State in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such State under the provision of articles 233-234 of the Constitution of India.

The Supreme Court, vide its Judgment dated 21.3.2002, in All India Judges' Association & ors. *vs.* Union of India & Ors. has directed that the existing vacancies in the Subordinate Courts at all levels should be filled, if possible latest by 31st March, 2003, in all the States.

The Central Government have been periodically urging all the State Governments/Union Territories and the High Courts to accord utmost priority to filling up of vacant posts of judges and magistrates. The Minister of Law and Justice has written to the Chief Justices of all High Courts and Chief Ministers of all States on 26.4.2002 for ensuring compliance of the aforesaid order of the Supreme Court dated the 21st March, 2002.

(c) It is for the High Courts to frame rules under articles 233-234 of the Constitution of India in respect of judges to work overtime to clear the backlog. However, the Government has written to the High Courts and the State Governments for intimating the Department of Justice the action taken to increase the working hours and cutting down vacations, as recommended by the First National Judicial Pay Commission.

Statement

The sanctioned/working strength and vacant posts of Judicial Officers in District/Subordinate Courts

Sl.No.	Name of States/UTs.	Sanctioned	Working	Vacant	As on
1.	Andhra Pradesh	776	713	63	Dec., 01
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	293	293	0	Dec., 98
3.	Assam	259	205	54	Jun., 01
4.	Bihar	1137	940	197	May,02
5.	Goa	44	39	5	Jun., 01
6.	Gujarat	636	581	55	Jun., 01
7.	Haryana	266	233	33	Jun., 2000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	98	93	5	Jun., 01
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	156	141	15	Jun., 01
10.	Karnataka	733	676	57	May, 02
11.	Kerala	370	369	01	Jun., 01
12.	Madhya Pradesh	792	654	138	May, 02
13.	Maharashtra	1285	1156	129	Jun., 01
14.	Manipur	32	28	4	Jun., 01
15.	Meghalaya	7	6	1	Jun, 2000
16.	Mizoram	35	21	14	Jun., 01
17.	Nagaland	21	21	0	Jun., 01

Sl.No.	Name of States/UTs.	Sanctioned	Working	Vacant	As on
18.	Orissa	483	404	79	Jun., 01
19.	Punjab	301	279	22	Jun., 01
20.	Rajasthan	790	663	127	Jun., 01
21.	Sikkim	12	9	3	Jun., 01
22.	Tamil Nadu	767	699	68	Jun., 01
23.	Tripura	74	55	19	Dec., 01
24.	Uttar Pradesh	2136	1592	544	May, 02
25.	West Bengal	588	507	81	Jun., 01
26.	And. & Nicobar	8	8	0	Jun., 01
27.	Chandigarh	19	19	0	Jun., 01
28.	Dadra & N. Haveli	3	3	0	Dec., 01
29.	Daman & Diu	2	2	0	Dec., 2000
30.	Delhi	407	216	191	Dec., 01
31.	Lakshadweep	3	3	0	Jun., 01
32.	Pondicherry	19	14	5	Jun., 01
33.	Jharkhand	533	370	163	Jun., 01
34.	Chhattisgarh	190	175	15	Jun., 01
35.	Uttaranchal	183	55	128	Jun., 02
	TOTAL:	13458	11242	2216	

Delegations of shipping industry to foreign countries

2749. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that delegations connected with Shipping Industry were sent to foreign countries for further co-operation and development in the shipping sector in view of the growing global competition during the last two years;